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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /069 W
---------- 048028
R 200720Z JAN 76
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1974
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USFJ YOKOTA AB
5TH AF YOKOTA
COMNAVJAPAN YOKOSUKA
USARJ ZAMA
USAGO MACHINATO
MARCORB CAMP BUTLER
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA
OAFO CAMP BUTLER
OAC CAMP BUTLER

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD
E.O. 11652: NA

PAGE 2 RHAIBQA3935 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, JA
SUBJECT: EXPO CLOSES QUIETLY
1. THE CEREMONIES CLOSING EXPO-75, ATTENDED BY CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS AND BY PRIME MINISTER MIKI, WERE HELD JAN 18 UNDER VERY TIGHT SECURITY WITH 3,800 POLICE IN AND AROUND THE EXPO SITE. NO TERRORIST INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED. ANTI-CROWN PRINCE RALLIES WERE POORLY ATTENDED, THE LARGEST DRAWING 350 KENROKYO YOUTH AND 75 KAKUMARU STUDENTS AT MOTOBU TOWN. NO DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD DURING CROWN PRINCE VISIT TO NEARBY IE SHIMA BECAUSE OF A POLICE BAN
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AND BECAUSE IE SHIMA RESIDENTS WHO OWN THE FERRY PREVENTED RADICALS

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FROM CROSSING TO THE ISLAND.
2. THE PRESS HAS BEEN FULL OF GENERALLY CRITICAL STORIES EVALUATING EXPO AND ITS ALLEGED ILL EFFECTS ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY. JAPANESE AND OKINAWAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING GOVERNOR YARA, HOWEVER, TELL US THEY BELIEVE EXPO WAS A SUCCESS BOTH AS AN EXPOSITION AND IN BRINGING OKINAWA CLOSER TO THE REST OF JAPAN ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY. WE WILL PREPARE A FINAL EVALUATION WHEN THE DUST SETTLES.
3. EXPO CLOSING MARKS END OF MAJOR PERIOD IN POST-REVERSION OKINAWA AND OKINAWANS IN GENERAL ARE NOW TURNING THEIR ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY CALL THE "POST-EXPO" PERIOD. PRESS IS PLAYING UP APPREHENSIONS ABOUT

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FUTURE UNEMPLOYMENT IN PARTICULAR. HOWEVER, IN MY INITIAL CALLS ON YARA AND OTHER OKINAWAN OFFICIALS I HAVE ENCOUNTERED MUCH MORE OPTIMI SM
ABOUT OKINAWA'S FUTURE THAN WAS EXPRESSED TO ME BY FONOFF AND BANK OF JAPAN OFFICIALS IN TOKYO. YARA AND OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE NOT TAKEN THE OCCASION OF MY CALLS TO EXPRESS ANY CRITICISM OF THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE.
KNOWLES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, TRADE FAIRS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NAHA00029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760020-0739
From: NAHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760141/aaaabkcn.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPO CLOSES QUIETLY
TAGS: PINS, PINT, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006